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Implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conferences on Human Settlements and on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

Report of the Second Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Glauco **Seoane** (Peru)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 16 September 2016, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its seventy-first session the item entitled "Implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conferences on Human Settlements and on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)" and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee considered the item at its 21st, 23rd and 29th meetings, on 25 October, 2 November and 13 December 2016. An account of the Committee's discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records.[1] Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 2nd to 5th meetings, on 3 and 4 October.[2]

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conferences on Human Settlements and on Housing and

[1] A/C.2/71/SR.21, A/C.2/71/SR.23 and A/C.2/71/SR.29.
[2] See A/C.2/71/SR.2, A/C.2/71/SR.3, A/C.2/71/SR.4 and A/C.2/71/SR.5.

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Sustainable Urban Development and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) (A/71/347);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda (A/71/356);

(c) Letter dated 29 September 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Thailand to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the fortieth annual meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Group of 77, held in New York on 23 September 2016 (A/71/422);

(d) Letter dated 30 September 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the annual ministerial meeting of the least developed countries, held in New York on 24 September 2016 (A/71/539).

4. At the 21st meeting, on 25 October, the Deputy Executive Director of UN-Habitat made an introductory statement.

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/71/L.36 and A/C.2/71/L.59

5. At the 23rd meeting, on 2 November, the representative of Thailand, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)" (A/C.2/71/L.36).

6. At its 29th meeting, on 13 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)" (A/C.2/71/L.59), submitted by the Rapporteur of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/71/L.36.

7. At the same meeting, the Secretary of the Committee read out a statement of the programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

8. Also at the same meeting, the facilitator of the draft resolution (Singapore) made a statement and orally corrected the ninth operative paragraph of draft resolution A/C.2/71/L.59.

9. Also at its 29th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/71/L.59 (see para. 12).

10. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Ecuador, the United States of America, Japan (also on behalf of Canada) and the European Union.

11. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/71/L.59, draft resolution A/C.2/71/L.36 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

12. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

The General Assembly,

Recalling the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, held in Vancouver, Canada, in 1976,[1] the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held in Istanbul, Turkey, in 1996,[2] and the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito from 17 to 20 October 2016,

Recalling also relevant resolutions of the General Assembly on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), including its resolutions 56/206 of 21 December 2001, 65/165 of 20 December 2010, 66/207 of 22 December 2011, 67/216 of 21 December 2012, 68/239 of 27 December 2013, 69/226 of 19 December 2014 and 70/210 of 22 December 2015,

Recalling further relevant decisions and resolutions of the Economic and Social Council on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda, including Council resolution 2016/24 of 27 July 2016 on human settlements, adopted by the Council at its 2016 session,

Reaffirming the outcome document, entitled "The future we want", of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012,[3]

Reaffirming also its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement

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[1] See *Report of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, Vancouver, 31 May-11 June 1976* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.7 and corrigendum).

[2] See *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996* (A/CONF.165/14), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[3] Resolution 66/288, annex, in particular paragraphs 134 to 137 on sustainable cities and human settlements, in which, inter alia, it is recognized that cities are engines of economic growth, which, if well planned and developed, including through integrated planning and management approaches, can promote economically, socially and environmentally sustainable societies.

for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Recalling that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, inter alia, acknowledges the importance of making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable, and stressing that the New Urban Agenda contributes to its implementation,

Reaffirming its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Recalling that the Addis Ababa Action Agenda acknowledges, inter alia, that expenditures and investments in sustainable development are being devolved to the subnational level, which often lacks adequate technical and technological capacity, financing and support, and recalling also the commitment therein to scaling up international cooperation to strengthen the capacities of municipalities and other local authorities,

Recognizing the importance of achieving the global targets of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030[4] for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda,

Welcoming the Paris Agreement[5] and its early entry into force, encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[6] that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

Reiterating the importance of the wide participation of all relevant stakeholders in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda,

Stressing the importance of inclusiveness within the United Nations development system and that no one is left behind and no country is left behind in the implementation of the present resolution,

1. *Welcomes* the adoption of the outcome document, entitled "New Urban Agenda", by the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito from 17 to 20 October 2016;

2. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda[7] and on the implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conferences on Human Settlements and on Housing and

[4] Resolution 69/283, annex II.
[5] See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.
[6] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.
[7] E/2016/54.

Sustainable Urban Development and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat);[8]

3. *Recognizes* the importance of promoting and taking concrete action for the full, effective and timely implementation of the New Urban Agenda at the global, regional, national, subnational and local levels;

4. *Reaffirms* the role and expertise of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), within its mandate, as a focal point for sustainable urbanization and human settlements, in collaboration with other United Nations system entities, recognizing the linkages between sustainable urbanization, and, inter alia, sustainable development, disaster risk reduction and climate change;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report on the progress of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda every four years, with the first report to be submitted to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council in 2018, in accordance with paragraphs 166 to 168 of the Agenda and the footnote thereto;

6. *Encourages* the Secretary-General, pursuant to paragraphs 171 and 172 of the New Urban Agenda, to take all appropriate measures to ensure that the evidence-based and independent assessment of UN-Habitat is carried out in a fair, objective, impartial and representative manner;

7. *Recalls* paragraphs 172 and 173 of the New Urban Agenda, and decides that the report from the evidence-based and independent assessment of UN-Habitat should be presented in a timely manner, not later than one month prior to the high-level meeting of the General Assembly;

8. *Emphasizes* the need to improve United Nations system-wide coordination and coherence in the area of sustainable urban development, within the framework of system-wide strategic planning, implementation and reporting, as stressed in paragraph 88 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;[9]

9. *Reaffirms* that, by readdressing the way cities and human settlements are planned, designed, financed, developed, governed and managed, the New Urban Agenda will help to end poverty and hunger in all its forms and dimensions, reduce inequalities, promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, in order to fully harness their vital contribution to sustainable development, improve human health and well-being, foster resilience and protect the environment;

10. *Encourages* Member States, international and bilateral donors and financial institutions to contribute to UN-Habitat through increased voluntary financial contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, including the Urban Basic Services Trust Fund and the technical cooperation trust funds, and invites Governments in a position to do so and other stakeholders to provide predictable multi-year funding and increased non-earmarked contributions to support the implementation of its mandate;

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[8] A/71/347.

[9] Resolution 70/1.

11. *Reiterates* the importance of the Nairobi headquarters location of UN-Habitat, and requests the Secretary-General to keep the resource needs of UN-Habitat under review with a view to improving its efficiency, effectiveness, transparency and accountability in supporting the implementation of its mandate;

12. *Reiterates* its recognition that, over the years, the responsibilities of UN-Habitat have changed considerably in their scope and complexity;

13. *Recognizes* the existing mandate of UN-Habitat, including its role in providing substantive and technical support to developing countries in areas related to sustainable cities and human settlements, as reflected in, inter alia, the New Urban Agenda;

14. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and resources, to ensure that no one is left behind and no country is left behind in the implementation of the present resolution;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-second session the item entitled "Implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conferences on Human Settlements and on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)".